

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY



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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

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AND INTERNAT	· ΓΙΟΝΑL PRELIMINARY EXAMI	NATION REPORT
Anslation internal	(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70))
Applicant's or agent's file reference IP 1508	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP2003/007131	International filing date (day/month/year 12 juin 2003 (12.06.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 13 juin 2002 (13.06.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) of G05B 23/02	or national classification and IPC	
Applicant	INVENTIO AG	
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IV Lack of unity of Reasoned state citations and extensions.	nent of opinion with regard to novelty, invent of invention ment under Article 35(2) with regard to nove explanations supporting such statement	tive step and industrial applicability elty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
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	the international application as original	lly filed	
$\overline{\boxtimes}$	the description:		
	pages	1-17	, as originally filed
	pages		, filed with the demand
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\boxtimes	the claims:		
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4. _ 5. _	The amendments have resulted in the the description, pages the claims, Nos the drawings, sheets/fig This report has been established as beyond the disclosure as filed, as income.		de, since they have been considered to go
in	this report as "originally filea" and	ished to the receiving Office in response to an i are not annexed to this report since they a nendments must be referred to under item 1 and	



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NO

v .	Reasoned statement under Article 3 citations and explanations supporting	5(2) with regard to novelt g such statement	y, inventive step or industrial applica	bility;
1.	Statement			
	Novelty (N)	Claims	3-5, 7-13	YES
		Claims	1, 2, 6	NO NO
	Inventive step (IS) Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	7-13	YES
		Claims	1-6	NO
		Claims	1-13	YES
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Citations and explanations

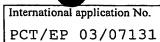
Reference is made to the following document:

Claims

D1: US-A-6 163 270 (SILVERMAN DAVID PHILLIP) 19
December 2000 (2000-12-19)

- The application fails to comply with the requirements of PCT Article 6, since claims 1, 3 and 4 are unclear.
- 1.1 The terms "security configuration", "fault configuration", "reference condition" and "security circuit" used in claims 1, 3 and 4 are vague and equivocal, and cast doubt on the meaning of the technical features to which they refer. The subject matter of said claims is therefore not clearly defined (PCT Article 6).
- 2. Moreover, irrespective of the above-mentioned lack of clarity, the subject matter of claims 1, 2 and 6 is not novel within the meaning of PCT Article 33(2). Consequently, the requirements of PCT Article 33(1) are not met.
- 2.1 nl which is considered to be the prior art closest





to the subject matter of claim 1, describes (the references between parentheses apply to said document):

"a control and/or surveillance device (10) including a plurality of peripherals (16, 18, 19), a central control unit (14) and a communication network (13) connecting the central unit (14) to the various peripherals (16, 18, 19), characterised in that it further includes an electric security circuit that selectively adopts a security configuration or a fault configuration (column 1, line 62 to column 2, line 31; column 3, line 57 to column 4, line 14; column 5, line 64 to column 6, line 9; column 7, line 40 to column 8, line 37); in that, at each instant, each peripheral (16, 18, 19) is subjected to a condition that totally or partially affects it (column 1, lines 62 to 64), which condition belongs to a plurality of possible conditions including a reference condition (ON, OFF, IDLE) and is reported selectively in the form of a context code by the peripheral concerned (column 3, lines 57 to 62); and in that the central control unit (14) includes at least a first transmission controller (20) which has a stored reference code (column 5, lines 27 to 46) for each peripheral (16, 18, 19) consisting of the context code (ON, OFF, IDLE) transmitted by the peripheral concerned (16, 18, 19) and indicating the reference condition thereof; which reads the context code of each of the peripherals (16, 18, 19) by periodically polling these peripherals according to a predetermined addressing order; which compares

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one by one the context codes (ON, OFF, IDLE) it reads by polling the peripherals to the reference codes it has stored; and which controls the transition of the security circuit from the security configuration to the fault configuration on detecting the absence of one of the codes to be compared or a discrepancy between the codes it has compared (column 5, line 63 to column 6, line 9).

The subject matter of claim 1 is therefore not novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

- 2.2 The additional features of dependent claims 2 and 6 are also disclosed in D1:
 - claim 2: column 5, lines 27 to 46;
 - claim 6: column 3, lines 48 to 51.

 The subject matter of claims 2 and 6 is therefore not novel (PCT Article 33(2)).
- 2.3 Furthermore, even if claims 1, 2 and 6 were interpreted in such a way as to enable the novelty of the subject matter of the application to be acknowledged on the grounds of minor differences in comparison with that of D1, the subject matter of claim 1 nevertheless does not involve an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)) with regard to D1, since said document discloses the same subject matter and describes the same kind of solution as the present application.
- 3. The present application does not satisfy the conditions stipulated in PCT Article 33(1), since the subject matter of claims 3, 4 and 5 does not involve an inventive step as defined by PCT Article 33(3):



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- claim 3: a slight alteration in the construction of the control device described in claims 1 and 2 is suggested, in particular the existence of a second transmission controller in the central control unit. Said alteration is part of the standard practice of a person skilled in the art and the resulting advantages are easily foreseeable;
- claim 4: see D1, column 5, lines 27 to 46;
- claim 5: to a person skilled in the art, supplying electric power to the peripherals via the communication network is a routine constructional step.

The subject matter of claims 3 to 5 therefore does not involve an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).